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July 13, 2011

**VIA U.S. MAIL & E-MAIL** [vargas.noel@epa.gov]

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 5  
Attention: Noel Vargas  
Water Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch, WC-15J  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

**RE: American Energy Corporation – Century Mine  
Docket No. V-W-11-308-11**

Dear Mr. Vargas:

This letter is in response to the February 14, 2011 letter from Tinka G. Hyde, Director, Water Division, USEPA Region 5, setting forth a request for information pursuant to Section 308 of the Clean Water Act ("Information Request") directed to American Energy Corporation – Century Mine ("AEC"), Docket No. V-W-11-308-11.

Set forth below are AEC's responses to Request Nos. 5.K., 6, and 7. While we believe that the responses to Request Nos. 5.K., 6, and 7 are complete, we reserve the right to supplement these responses in the event we identify additional responsive documents or information.

**Request No. 5.K.: Provide the following portions of the Ohio DNR SMCRA permit application(s): . . .**

**Response:** The requested portions of AEC's SMCRA permit applications are included in AEC's response to Request No. 5.J. of the Information Request. Please refer to the documents produced in response to Request No. 5.J. for information responsive to Request No. 5.K.

**Request No. 6: Identify any Environmental Management System (EMS) and compliance audit program(s) currently used and identify who developed the EMS and any audit program(s). Provide copies of any environmental audit protocols.**

**Response:** AEC currently employs environmental compliance auditing programs and is in the process of developing an EMS. AEC provided a copy of its environmental auditing protocols in response to Request No. 6 of the Information Request. The following individuals have been involved in the development of the EMS and AEC's environmental compliance auditing programs:

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Farley Wood - Director of Environmental Compliance  
Dave Washinsky - Manager of Compliance  
Crellin Scott - Assistant Director, Environmental Compliance &  
Manager of Permitting  
Drew Hudson - Environmental Compliance Engineer

In conjunction with developing and implementing an EMS, AEC, in December 2010, acquired an E-Records Internet Management System ("ERIMS") to assist with managing and integrating AEC's water quality and environmental records into the EMS.

**Request No. 7:** State whether Ohio American Energy, Inc. has ever been granted or told by a permitting authority (local, state or federal) that Salt Run Mine is entitled to a waiver or variance of any permitting requirement, emissions limitation, or other environmental requirement that could otherwise be applicable. If so, provide a copy of all documents describing or containing the waiver or variance, any application for it, the granting of it, and the reason it was approved or granted.

**Response:** With respect to the Clean Water Act, and any permitting requirement, effluent limitation or other environmental requirement under the Clean Water Act, Chapter 6111 of the Ohio Revised Code or regulations adopted under either statute, AEC is unaware of any waiver or variance which has been granted to it regarding such requirements.

The following individuals assisted in collecting information and preparing the responses to Request Nos. 6 and 7, above:

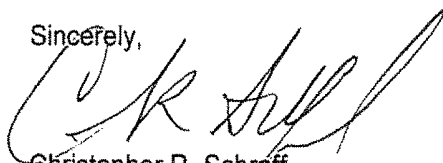
Farley Wood - Director of Environmental Compliance  
Dave Washinsky - Manager of Compliance  
Crellin Scott - Assistant Director, Environmental Compliance &  
Manager of Permitting  
Chris Van Bever - Assistant General Counsel

Upon the submission of this letter to you, AEC believes that its responses to all information requests propounded by USEPA to AEC are now completed. Documents and information responsive to Information Request Nos. 1 through 5.B. were provided in correspondence dated April 22, 2011 to you from the undersigned. Documents responsive to Information Request Nos. 5.C. through 6 were uploaded to USEPA's ftp site in accordance with USEPA's instructions. AEC reserves the right to supplement its responses if additional documents or information come to light at a later date.

Finally, AEC is not making a claim of confidentiality for any of the documents provided to USEPA in response to the Information Request for time periods up to and including the date of this letter.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Christopher R. Schraff  
Attorney for American Energy Corporation

CRS:mkd  
Enclosure  
cc: C. Van Bever, Esq.

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

This Statement of Certification is delivered in connection with the July 12, 2011 letter and accompanying documents submitted by American Energy Corporation in response to USEPA's Clean Water Act Section 308 request for information directed to American Energy Corporation – Century Mine, Docket No. V-W-11-308-11. I hereby certify that the information contained in or accompanying the submission is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Kevin R. Hughes

American Energy Corporation

General Manager and Superintendent – Century Mine

July 12, 2011